

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That section(s) of the Annotated Code of Maryland be repealed, amended, or enacted to read as follows:

Article 2C - Alcoholism

302.

(a) The treatment and rehabilitation program in the State available to both males and females, wherever possible utilizing the facilities of and coordinated with the programs of community mental health centers, shall include at least the following components:

(1) Detoxification units, to be open 24 hours every day, which shall be located conveniently to population centers so as to be quickly and easily accessible to patients, to provide appropriate medical OR PARAMEDICAL services for intoxicated persons, including initial examination, diagnosis, and classification. Each detoxification center, if possible, shall be affiliated with, and constitute an integral part of, the general medical services of a general hospital; provided, that the center need not be physically a part of a general hospital.

303.

(b) Any person who is intoxicated in a public place and either incapacitated or whose health is in immediate danger, if not handled under subsection (a), shall be taken by the police or other authorized personnel to a detoxification center.

(1) A person shall be deemed incapacitated when he is unable to make a rational decision about accepting assistance.

(2) Any intoxicated person may voluntarily come to a detoxification unit for medical OR PARAMEDICAL attention but incapacitated persons and others in immediate medical danger shall be given priority.

(3) The [physician] PROGRAM DIRECTOR then in charge [(medical officer)] of the unit shall have the authority to determine whether a person shall be admitted to the center as a patient, or referred to another appropriate facility for care and treatment, or denied referral or admission. If [he] A PERSON is admitted as a patient, the [medical officer] PROGRAM DIRECTOR shall have the authority to require [him] THE PERSON to remain at the unit until he is sober and no longer intoxicated or incapacitated, but in any event no longer than 5 days after his admission as a patient, except as provided in § 306 hereof. A patient may consent to remain at a detoxification unit for as long as the [medical officer] PROGRAM DIRECTOR believes warranted. If the [medical officer] PROGRAM DIRECTOR concludes that the person should receive treatment at a different facility [he], THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR shall arrange for such treatment